

## Shaykh Muhammad Marzooq Al-Bannaa

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Source: Private gatherings between Abdulilah ibn Rabah Lahmami and the Shaikh

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### His Birth And Upbringing:

The Shaikh was born on February 16, 1333H (1913 CE) and is currently 89 years old. He was born in Cairo and has lived in Riyadh, Ahsaa and Madeenah. He presently resides in Jeddah.

### The Shaikh's Teachers:

When asked on his teachers, the Shaikh responded: "I used to study a lot and be with some of the mashaayikh such as Shaikh Abdur-Razzaaq Al-'Afeefee <sup>1</sup> and Shaikh Khaleel Harraas.<sup>2</sup> I was born into a religious family - the famous Shaikh, Ahmad Shaakir, was also around me; he was the husband of one of my aunts."<sup>3</sup>

### The Shaikh's Students:

When asked on his students, he said: "Shaikh Rabee' Ibn Haadee al Madhkhalee was the best of them. Shaikh Muhammad Amaan (Rahimahu 'Llah) was also good. Shaikh Abdur-Rahmaan Abdul-Khaaliq was a good salafee, but he followed the way of the Ikhwaan Al-Muslimeen as did 'Umar Al-Ashqar, though to a lesser degree."

### His Knowledge:

The Shaikh was recommended by Shaikh Abdur-Razzaaq Al-'Afeefee to teach in the educational institute in Riyadh when it first opened. This recommendation was given to Shaikh Ibn Baaz (Rahimahu 'Llah) and he agreed to it. After five years of teaching in Riyadh, the Shaikh was moved to Al-Ahsaa in Saudi Arabia to teach at a centre for a further eight years. The gatherings for his Friday sermons were well attended. He would clarify the methodology of the Salaf As-Saalih in them and expel the false interpretations of some of the Shee'ah who lived in that area. After facing some hardships with the people there, the Shaikh was called to teach in the ma'had (educational institute) in Madeenah for two years before being asked to teach at the Islaamic University of Madeenah. This was during the same time that Shaikh Bin Baaz, Shaikh Al-Albaanee and Shaikh Ash-Shanqeetee (Rahimahu 'Llahu 'anhum) taught there.

After completing the teaching period of three years in the Islaamic University, the Shaikh came to Jeddah and began teaching in many mosques. The Shaikh also had a chair in the Haram of Makkah where he taught for a period of time. Now the Shaikh resides in Makkah and Jeddah where he has taught "Usool Ath-Thalaatha", "Kitaab At-Tawheed" (20 tapes), "Aqeedah Al-Waasitiyyah", "Kashf Ash-Shubuhaat", "Usool Sittah", "Tafseer Ibn Katheer", "Saheeh Muslim" and many other books.

<sup>1</sup> He was the former deputy-chair of the Committee of Senior Scholars for Fatwa and Research in Saudi Arabia.

<sup>2</sup> He explained the book Al-'Aqeedah Al-Waasitiyyah.

<sup>3</sup> He was the scholar of Hadeeth who explained the book "Ba'ith al Hatheeth" of Ibn Katheer and who checked the "Musnad" of Imaam Ahmad.

## **His Piety:**

He would complete the Qur'aan in three days. This was mentioned by the former Imaam of his mosque, who was studying with Shaikh Ibn Al-'Uthaimeen (Rahimahu 'Llah). Shaikh al Banna continues to fast Mondays and Thursdays as well as three days of every month - the 13th, 14th, and 15th (of the month) in accordance with the Sunnah - despite his great age. The Shaikh is very humble - he loves the students of knowledge and welcomes them as though they were his own children. The Shaikh always serves his guest before sitting and eating himself. This continues even at his age of 89 years. And the Shaikh continues to make Hajj.

## **His Travels In Da'wah:**

The Shaikh would go out in travels with Shaikh Muhammad Naasir-ud-Deen Al-Albaanee (Rahimahu 'Llah). He says that those days were the golden years. The Shaikh organized trips for students, which were intended to teach the students. After a long day teaching the students, the Shaikh would sleep a little and then get up before all the students to wash their clothes and make them breakfast. He has travelled to America, Japan, England and Morocco by the request of Shaikh Bin Baaz.

## **Those Who Praised Him:**

Shaikh Abdur-Razzaaq Al-'Afeeefee (Rahimahu 'Llah), the deputy head of the former Shuraa council under Shaikh Bin Baaz (Rahimahu 'Llah) had asked for Shaikh al Banna to be amongst the first lecturers to teach at the new opening of an educational institute in Riyadh.

Shaikh Rabee' Ibn Haadee said in the month of Jumaada 2, 1422H (September 2001), "Shaikh al Banna has been on the Salafee Da'wah for sixty (60) years. Learn his manners for they will benefit you."

## **Those Whom He Praised:**

The Shaikh praised Imaam Bin Baaz (Rahimahu 'Llah), Imaam Al-Albaanee (Rahimahu 'Llah) and Imaam Ibn Al-'Uthaimeen (Rahimahu 'Llah). Amongst the students he praised are Shaikh 'Alee Hasan Al-Halabee, Shaikh Saleem Al-Hilaalee and Shaikh Abul-Hasan Al-Misree (Hafidhahu 'Llahu 'anhum). He mentioned about Shaikh Rabee' that he is the "Yahya Ibn Ma'een of this era." And about Imaam Bin Baaz, he said he was the "Umar Ibn Abd-il-'Azeez of this era in being just." And he saw Imaam Al-Albaanee as being the "Ibn Taymiyyah of this era", and his student Shaikh 'Alee Hasan as being the "Ibn Al-Qayyim of this era." The Shaikh has recently praised Shaikh Abdul-Malik Ramadaanee for his book "Madaarik-un-Nadhr fi Siyaasat-ish- Shar'iyyah."

## **Shaikh Al-Bannaa Speaks About Where He Grew Up:**

"However, where I lived the atmosphere was not good since there were a lot of misconceptions from the Sufis. They would make takfeer of those that affirmed Allaah's Attributes. I would study in the schools and they would usually teach the madh-hab of Abu Haneefah and the madh-hab of Ash-Shaafi'ee - my father being Shafi'ee and my mother Hanafee.

I followed the methodology of the Salaf due to this reason. My father being Shafi'ee would hold the opinion that touching a woman broke wudoo and my mother being Hanafee would hold that a man's touching a woman didn't break

wudoo. So my father would get upset if my mother touched him when he was going out to pray. And he would have a towel between him and her hand so that they wouldn't touch.

Then I said to myself that Islaam is one. I started thinking about this and how it could be this or that. I went to one of my uncles who was religious and complained to him that Islaam is one, but yet my father says this and my mother says that. So while I was in this state, Allaah willed that in the year 1936 CE, I think, I graduated in accounting. My father used to be strict with us concerning the prayers. I used to pray and this was unique in many of the youths at that time in Cairo. There was a person of my father's age who was a poet named Muhammad Arnus - a friend at work. He had written some books on poetry. Once he saw me pray and said 'I will pray with you.' So we would pray together and afterward read from the book 'Zaad al-Ma'aad' of Ibn Al-Qayyim.

I began to love reading and I would go and buy books. If Allaah wishes good for someone, He shows him the way. Near Al-Azhar University, there was a small bookshop I would go to. The bookseller, Muneer Dimishqee, advised me which books to read after I complained to him of not knowing what to read. He would give me the authentic books. Every month I would buy books with 50 coins. Whatever Salafee book there was, he gave it to me to read. I was good at reading. My memory was very good. I used to like this group Jam'iyyah Shar'iyyah. Shaikh Muhammad Ameen Khattab al Kabeer also married one of my relatives. Their prayer was very good (according to the Sunnah), so I always prayed with them.

I used to attend a mosque at 10th Street - the Jam'iyyah Shar'iyyah Mosque. The person in charge there was Shaikh 'Alee Helwa. He used to teach on Wednesday evenings, I think, and I would attend his lessons. He would say that the person who says that: 'Allaah is above the heavens' is a kaafir - Allaah is neither above nor to the left nor to the right....the Ash'aree Matureedi belief. From the books I read that were given to me by Shaikh Muneer Dimishqee was Imaam Ibn Khuzaimah's book '**Tawheed wa Ithbaat Sifaat Ar-Rabb**' and in there I remembered the hadeeth of Mu'awiyah Ibn Al-Hakam As-Sulamee (the hadeeth of the slave girl). So I said to him (Shaikh 'Alee Helwa): You say kaafir, but the Messenger (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said 'Free her as she is a believer.' So I got thrown out of the mosque for speaking the truth against this person who was misguiding the people!"